

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 198-2005



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: July 27, 2005

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name of the City Manager.

Subject: NORTH BEACH OCEANFRONT PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES - A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

The Planning Department is coordinating a two-day place evaluation and placemaking workshop to help generate a community vision for oceanfront parks and public spaces in North Beach, including North Shore Open Space Park, Altos del Mar Park, Ocean Terrace, North Shore Park (east of Collins Avenue), and the Beachwalk.

The workshops have been scheduled for **Thursday, October 20, 2005 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM** and **Saturday, October 22, 2005 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**, which includes lunch. The Thursday workshop will focus primarily on North Shore Open Space Park. The Saturday workshop will focus primarily on Altos del Mar Park, Ocean Terrace, and North Shore Park (east of Collins Avenue). However, all the parks and public spaces will be covered in both workshop segments so that citizens who can only attend one segment will have the opportunity to give input on any portion of the study area.

The goal of the workshops is to discuss the problems and opportunities of different spaces in the oceanfront parks system and share ideas for improvement relative to the types of activities and uses that the parks could accommodate. We intend to involve a large number of stakeholders and community organizations in a meaningful way. Hopefully, we will gain a better understanding of how the North Beach oceanfront public spaces are currently used today, and reach consensus on a vision for the future.

The workshop will be facilitated by Project for Public Spaces, Inc. (PPS), a non-profit organization based in New York City, in collaboration with the Planning Department and Capital Improvements Office. PPS is a world-renowned expert in the design and management of public spaces (<http://www.pps.org/>). They assist communities in transforming public spaces into vital places, with programs, uses, and people-friendly settings that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs. One of these communities was the City of Miami where PPS conducted a place evaluation workshop of the Miami Bay Walk in the summer of 2004. The Bay Walk was treated as one element of a larger project that included the redesign of Biscayne Boulevard, Bayfront Park and Bicentennial Park, all of which are planned to link with one another and with the Miami River Greenway. This study has been credited with helping to generate additional political support and funding thus expediting the process of moving the Bay Walk project forward as an element of a waterfront master plan.

The outcome/product of the North Beach oceanfront spaces place evaluation workshop will be a report of the findings to be presented to the Planning Board and the City Commission. This will provide an approved program for the design of Altos del Mar Park by the Landscape Architecture firm of Falcon and Bueno. It will also provide priorities for use of Miami-Dade County bond funds in North Shore Park, as well as a blueprint for future grant applications. Furthermore, the study has the potential to inspire and stimulate more interest from the private and public sectors to fund further refinement and prioritization of recommendations for implementation in a holistic way.

~~JMG~~ ~~HJ~~ ~~JGG~~ ~~JAM~~ ~~KMH~~

c: Jorge Gomez
Jorge Chartrand

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